

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ARAFAT VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA

1. VISIT CHRONOLOGY (NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER). PLO PRESIDENT YASSER ARAFAT ARRIVED IN BELGRADE NOV 30 WITH ORGANIZATION MEMBERS FARUK KHADHUMY, ZUHEIR MOHSEN, NAIF HAWATME, AHMET ASHARI, TALAL NADZI, MAHMUDEL KALDI, ATIF ABU BAKR, AND FARUK EL KADI. HE WAS GREETED AT AIRPORT BY FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL PRESIDENT DZEMAL BIJEDIC. EVENING TALKS HELD BETWEEN PLO DELEGATION (MINUS ASHARI AND BAKR) AND BIJEDIC, WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY MILOS MINIC AND OTHER YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS TAKING PART. ON DECEMBER 1 PLO DELEGATION VISITED NIKINCI ARAMAMENTS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT EXPOSITION, ACCOMPANIED BY YUGOSLAV ASST DEFSEC LTC GEN. DUSAN VUJATOVIC. NEXT DAY DELEGATION HELD TALKS WITH DUSAN PETROVIC, PRESIDENT OF SOCILIST ALLIANCE AND BIJEDIC HOSTED STATE LUNCHEON IN ARAFAT'S HONOR. ARAFAT, ALSO HELD TALKS WITH DR. ALEKSANDAR GRICKOV, SECRETARY OF LCY

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND IN EVENING CALLED PRESS CONFERENCE.

ON DEC 3, DELEGATION FLEW TO LJUBLJANA AND HAD TALKS WITH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANDREJ MARINC. PLO DELEGATION MET PRESIDENT TITO AT BRDO KOD KRANJA FOR TALKS IN WHICH DELEGATION (MINUS ASHARI AND EL KADI), DZEMAL BIJEDIC AND OTHER YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS TOOK PART. TITO HOSTED LUNCHEON HONORING ARAFAT WITH EXCOM SECRETARY STANE DOLANC AND OTHER TOP OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE. ARAFAT AND REST OF PLO DELEGATION DEPARTED YUGOSLAVIA FOR UNSPECIFIED DESTINATION, AND WERE SEEN OFF AT LJUBLJANA AIRPORT BY BIJEDIC AND MARINC. JOINT COMMUNIQUE HAS BEEN ISSUED.

2. BOTH BIJEDIC AND TITO PLEDGED FULL SUPPORT TO THE PLO, TITO SAYING THAT "YUGOSLAVIA WILL ALWAYS SIDE WITH YOU AND HELP YOU AS MUCH AS SHE CAN IN EVERY RESPECT." IN UNUSUAL DISPLAY OF CANDOR BIJEDIC CHARACTERIZED TALKS AS "FULL AND FRANK", PROBABLY INDICATING DIFFERENCES OVER RESPECTIVE VIEWS ON THE STATUS OF ISRAEL.

3. MAJOR COMMUNIQUE POINTS:

A) PLO EXPRESSED GRATITUDE TO YUGOSLAVIA FOR ITS STEADFAST SUPPORT

B) BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT SOLUTION OF MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM IS "ISRAEL'S WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, AND SECURING THE LEGITIMATE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE ARAB PEOPLE OF PALESTINE, WHICH MEANS THE RIGHT TO FORM THEIR OWN STATE."

C) BOTH SIDES AGREED TO SEEK AID FOR THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM.

D) YUGOSLAVIA PLEDGED THAT IT WOULD "EXERT ALL EFFORTS" FOR THE ARAB PEOPLE OF PALESTINE, "PROCEEDING FROM YUGOSLAVIA'S PRINCIPLED AND CONSISTENT POLICY OF SUPPORTING THE RIGHT OF EVERY PEOPLE TO LIVE IN FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE AND TO DECIDE ITS FATE FOR ITSELF."

4. COMMENT: LATTER POINT IMPLIES REITERATION OF PREVIOUSLY STATED YUGOSLAV POSITION THAT ALL ME STATES, INCLUDING ISRAEL, HAS RIGHT TO EXIST. PLO HAS PERHAPS SOFTENED ITS POSITION BY ACCEPTING THIS POINT IN COMMUNIQUE.

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5. YUGOSLAVS TOLD ARAB AMBASSADORS ARAFAT WOULD BE TREATED AS VISITING PRIME MINISTER. THUS ARAFAT WAS INVITED, GREETED, AND SEEN OFF BY HIS "COUNTERPART" BIJEDIC AND RECEIVED AND HOSTED AT LUNCH BY TITO. VISIT RECEIVED WIDE ALL-MEDIA COVERAGE, AND ARAFAT SAW EVERY MAJOR YUGOSLAV STATE AND PARTY LEADER EXCEPT KARDELJ WHO IS ILL.
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